

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6 and 11 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are sought to be amended. Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this Amendment.

Applicants have made the above Amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Based on the above Amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 5 has been amended to recite improving the design of the actual electronic device based on the evaluation. Claim 5 now parallels claim 10. Claims 11-17 have been amended to recite virtual timing circuitry. Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 5 and 11-17 address the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,370,675 (hereinafter referred to as “the Matsumura patent”). Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over the Matsumura patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,931,962 (hereinafter referred to as “the Dang patent”). Claims 11-13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over the Matsumura patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,036 (hereinafter referred to as “the Panis patent”). Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over the Matsumura patent in view of the Dang patent and further in view of the Panis patent. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections since the Matsumura, Dang and/or Panis patents, either taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each element of amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11 for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to include the similar feature(s) of determining, in the virtual test environment, an indication of a signal transmission time of the actual electronic device in the actual test environment; determining, in the virtual test environment, an indication of a signal transmission time of the actual electronic device in the environment the actual electronic device might ordinarily be used; and evaluating the integrity of the input test signal and a resulting output signal from the virtual device based on the determined indication of the signal transmission time of the actual electronic device in the actual test environment and the determined indication of the signal transmission time of the actual electronic device in the environment the actual electronic

device might ordinarily be used.

The Matsumura, Dang and/or Panis patents, either taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above added feature(s). Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 (and their dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-17) are patentable over the Matsumura, Dang and/or Panis patents, either taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, Molly A. McCall, at (703) 633-3311 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 en:

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